GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:493
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2007
LITERACY PROGRAMME
Jena Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Centrally sponsored schemes in operation aiming to impart literacy in the country;

(b) whether these schemes are properly evaluated/monitored in order to provide quality education to the needy;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether necessary infrastructure and manpower is available in the rural areas of the country at par with the urban areas;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether different State Governments and local self-Governments provide funds to supplement the efforts of the Union Government; (g) if so, the details thereof; (h) whether the Government proposes to merge/restructure schemes with similar objectives like Education Guarantee Scheme, Education for All, Non-formal Education, Alternative and Innovative Education; and (i) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. A. A. FATMI)

(a): 'Adult Education and Skill Development' is the centrally sponsored scheme under the National Literacy Mission to impart literacy in the country. This scheme includes the earlier schemes of 'Literacy Campaigns & Operation Restoration' for providing basic literacy and post literacy to the learners and 'Continuing Education Programme' for providing life long learning facilities to the neo-literates and other sections of the society, which have now been merged into a single scheme.

(b) & (c): There is a three-tier monitoring mechanism available at district, state and national level for regular monitoring of the literacy programmes. Zilla Saksharata Samiti which plan and implement the programme also monitor the individual centres with the help of Block and District Coordinators. A monitoring system is put in place for collecting information/data from the centres. State Directorates of Adult/Mass Education are the State level monitoring authority. The information received from the districts are scrutinized and analysed by them. Monthly Monitoring Meetings are held at the State Directorates in which ZSS representatives participate where the programme is reviewed.
At the national level, these monthly progress reports received from the State Directorates of Adult/Mass Education are again scrutinized and analyzed by Directorate of Adult Education, New Delhi to know strengths and weaknesses of the programme.
In addition to this, NLM organizes Regional Review Meetings of State Education Secretaries/Directors of Adult/Mass Education every year to review the progress of literacy programme in their States.
The total literacy campaigns, post literacy programme, continuing education programme implemented in the districts are also individually evaluated through external evaluation agencies. So far 424 TLCs, 175 PLP districts and 31 CE Programme districts have been evaluated by external evaluation agencies.

(d) & (e): The norms of financial assistance for urban and rural areas under the literacy programmes are the same. At district /block level different committees are constituted under the aegis of Zilla Saksharta Samities which monitor various aspects of the programme. The basic literacy and post literacy programmes are implemented on a purely voluntary basis. Apart from providing teaching/learning material and training to the instructors, no other infrastructure support is provided for these programmes. Under the Continuing Education Programme, a Prerak and Assistant Prerak are appointed who are paid honorarium at prescribed rates. Apart from this each continuing education centre is provided non recurring grant for equipments, sports items, books etc.

(f) & (g): In respect of total literacy and post literacy programmes the funding is shared between the central and state governments in the ratio of 2 : 1. In tribal districts, the funding is shared in the ratio of 4:1 between the central and state governments respectively. Under the continuing education programme, 100% central assistance is provided for the first three years and the cost is to be shared equally between the central and the state government for the fourth and fifth year and thereafter the state governments are expected to take over the entire liability of the programme. Apart from this, some of the state governments have provided funds for state based initiatives for the literacy programmes.

(h) & (i): The Education Guarantee Scheme and Alternative & Innovative Education are not separate schemes but distinct component of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.